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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Second Committee (Part IX)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 88 (see A/49/728, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (h) was considered at the 29th and 32nd meetings, on 23 November and 7 December 1994. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/49/SR.29 and 32).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/49/L.28 and A/C.2/49/L.53

2. At the 29th meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty" (A/C.2/49/L.28), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/49/728 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993 proclaiming 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992 and 48/184 of 21 December 1993 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

"Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992 entitled 'Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty',

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, 1/

"Deeply concerned at the steady increase in poverty in developing countries and at its effect on the most vulnerable groups of society,

"Aware of the need for a better understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty,

"Recognizing that the eradication of poverty and the full achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and strategies are interrelated goals,

"Stressing the importance of international cooperation in combating poverty and the exchange among countries of successful experiences in the field,

"Recognizing that the grave suffering of the great majority of human beings who live in conditions of poverty demands the immediate attention of the international community and the adoption of concrete actions and measures for the eradication of poverty within the framework of relevant forthcoming United Nations conferences, particularly the World Summit for Social Development, and within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

"1. Reaffirms that the major activities for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty should be undertaken at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels and that assistance should be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness of the fact that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and a multidimensional problem and fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;

1/ A/49/572.

"2. Notes with appreciation the importance that the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development is going to place on the issue of poverty eradication and expresses the hope that the programme of action to be adopted by the Summit in March 1995 will include concrete actions to eradicate all types of poverty, particularly rural poverty and extreme poverty;

"3. Stresses that an in-depth and complete study of the nature, the causes and the consequences of all types of poverty in developing countries which affect mankind is necessary within the framework of the Year;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General, through the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University, to give appropriate consideration, in directing their research and studies of all types of poverty, to the experiences of the poor themselves and so contribute to a better understanding of their situation;

"5. Also requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with all States, concerned specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups, to achieve at an early date the elaboration of the draft programme concerning the preparations for and observance of the Year, containing the objectives, principles and main recommendations for the Year, and to submit a final report thereon to the General Assembly for adoption at its fiftieth session;

"6. Recommends that a number of particular themes should be chosen on the one hand to reflect the multidimensional and complex nature of the problem and the multisectoral, multi-pronged and comprehensive approach required to meet the challenge of poverty, and on the other to ensure that the Year makes a distinct and significant contribution to the effort to eradicate poverty;

"7. Requests the preparatory body for the Year to organize in 1995, so as to choose a logo for the Year, an international competition whose winner should be awarded a prize at the launching ceremony of the Year;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to organize in December 1995, during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, the ceremony marking the launching of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

"9. Invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, concerned national organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups to give the necessary attention to the preparations for and observance of the Year;

"10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session a sub-item on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty under the item entitled 'International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries'."

3. At the 32nd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty" (A/C.2/49/L.53), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Raiko Raichev (Bulgaria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.28.

4. At the same meeting after a statement by the representative of Benin (see A/C.2/49/SR.32), the Chairman orally revised draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.53 as follows:

(a) In the penultimate preambular paragraph, the words "combating poverty," were deleted and replaced by the word "and";

(b) In operative paragraph 6 after the words "requests that", the words "the designers of" were inserted.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.53, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.28 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993 proclaiming 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992 and 48/184 of 21 December 1993 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, 1/

Recognizing that although poverty exists in all countries, its impact is most severe and widespread in the developing countries and on the vulnerable groups of society,

Aware of the need for a better understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty,

Recognizing that the eradication of poverty and the full achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and strategies are interrelated goals,

Recognizing also the central role that women play in the eradication of poverty,

Stressing the importance of national strategies and policies for and the coordination of international cooperation in combating poverty and the exchange among countries of successful experiences in the field,

Recognizing that the grave suffering of the great majority of human beings who live in conditions of poverty demands the immediate attention of the international community and the adoption of concrete actions and measures towards the eradication of poverty within the framework of relevant forthcoming United Nations conferences, particularly the World Summit for Social Development, and within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. Reaffirms that the major activities for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty should be undertaken at all levels and that assistance should be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness of the fact that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and a multidimensional problem and fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;

2. Notes with appreciation the importance that the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development is going to place on the issue of poverty eradication;

3. Stresses that an in-depth and complete study of the nature, the causes and the consequences of all types of poverty in developing countries which affect mankind is necessary within the framework of the Year, building on the results of the World Summit for Social Development;

4. Requests the Secretary-General through the secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University to give appropriate consideration, in directing their research and studies of all types of poverty, to the experiences of the poor themselves and so contribute to a better understanding of their situation;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with all States, concerned specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations

system, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups, to achieve at an early date the elaboration of the draft programme concerning the preparations for and observance of the Year, containing the objectives, principles, themes and main recommendations for the Year, which should be consistent with the challenge of poverty and the declaration and the programme of action of the World Summit for Social Development, and to submit a final report thereon to the General Assembly for consideration at its fiftieth session, with the aim of ensuring that the Year makes a distinct and significant contribution to the efforts to eradicate poverty;

6. Requests that the preparatory body for the Year choose a logo for the Year, in consultation with all countries and relevant groups, and requests that the designers of the logo chosen be awarded a symbolic prize at the ceremony marking the launching of the Year;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to organize in December 1995, during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, the ceremony marking the launching of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

8. Invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, concerned national organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested groups to give the necessary attention to the preparations for and observance of the Year;

9. Decides to consider at its fiftieth session the preparations for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty under the sub-item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".